

COMPLETE THE RING THE PEAK TRAIL PLANNING GRANT

Tilah Larson, Senior Analyst
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Bill Koerner, Advocacy Director
Trails and Open Space Coalition





- Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers and open space.
- Eligible entities may submit grant applications on behalf of ineligible organizations.
- Planning grants help develop strategic master plans for outdoor parks and recreation projects, trails, or site-specific plans.

PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

- **Government sponsor:** City of Colorado Springs
- **Grant request:** \$100,000 planning grant
 - ✓ \$10,000 cash match from TOSC and FOTP
 - ✓ \$15,000 in-kind match from partner organizations
- **Application due:** September 13, 2016
- **Grant awarded:** December 8, 2016

RING THE PEAK TRAIL BACKGROUND

- Part of 1999 Pikes Peak Multiuse Plan
- 80% of the trail complete
- Two remaining gaps
 1. Ute Pass Regional Trail Gap: El Paso County has a completed master plan
 2. Southwest 8-12 Mile Gap: trail master plan needed

RING THE PEAK TRAIL GAPS

Southwest
Trail Gap



Ute Pass
Regional Trail
Gap

EXISTING TRAIL



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

OUTDOOR RECREATION STATEWIDE: \$34.5B

- Direct impact: purchase of goods, travel, lodging, services
- Indirect impact: re-spending resulting from the direct economic impact
- Induced impact: industry workers spending wages

SOUTHWEST REGION: \$4.7B

- Includes EL Paso, Teller, Park, Fremont and southern counties

Ref: 2014 Colorado Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, pg. 60

RING THE PEAK SUPPORTERS

- **Government:** Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Victor, Cripple Creek, Teller County, El Paso County, Manitou Springs
- **User Groups:** Colorado Mountain Club, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and others
- **Tourism and Business:** Regional Business Alliance, Norwood, Convention and Visitors Bureau

PLANNING GRANT OBJECTIVES

- Develop a “Close the Ring the Peak Trail” Master Plan
- Conduct public outreach process
- Consult with private and governmental partners
- Identify physical and organizational constraints regarding potential trail alignments
- Approach private property owners for trail easements /permissions

PLANNING GRANT OBJECTIVES

- Identify alternatives and the recommended trail alignment
- Develop a plan for ongoing trail management, maintenance, sustainability and funding
- Identify implementation costs
- Develop an action plan and implementation schedule

HORSETHIEF PARK



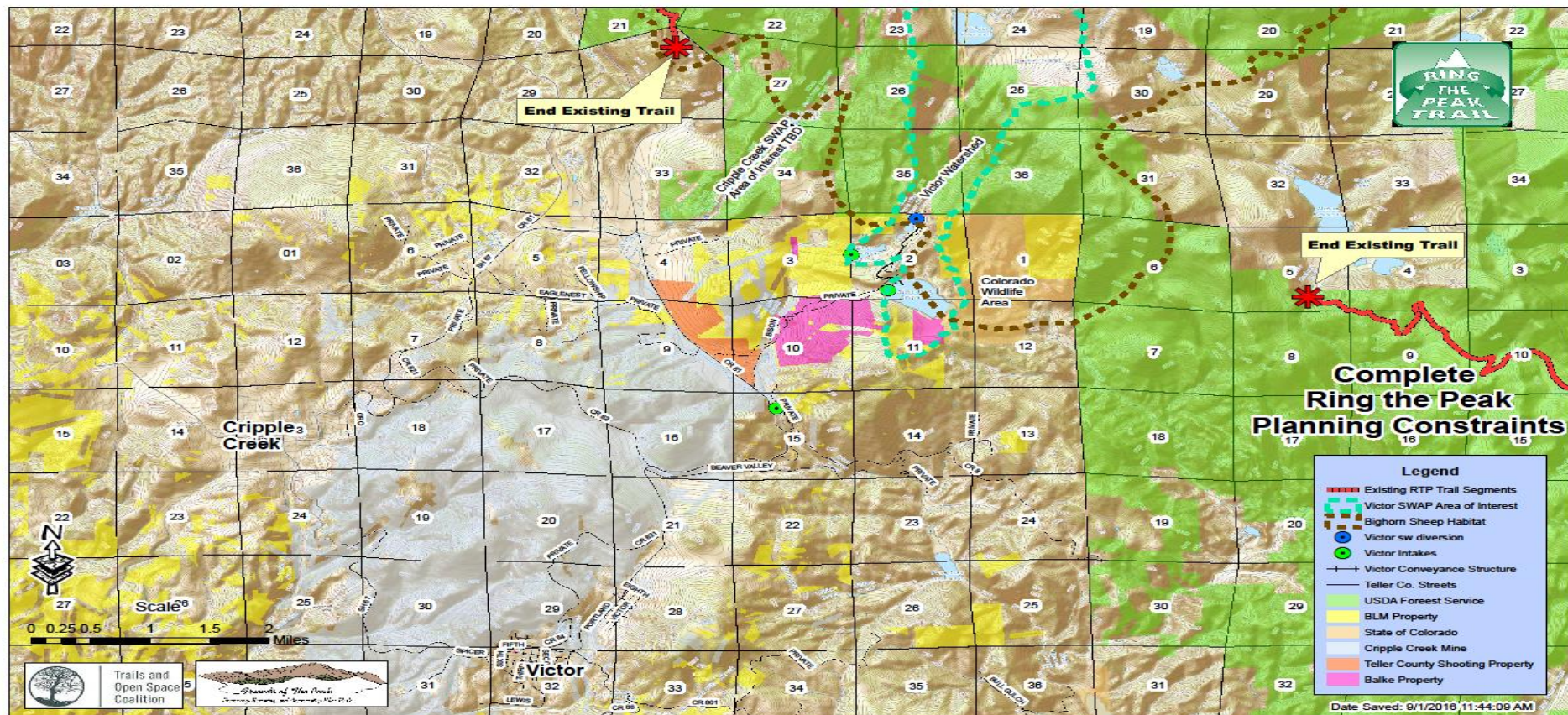
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formed non-profit partnerships: TOSC, FTP, PLT
- “16 in 2016” priority trail designation
- Secured \$18,000 to support TOSC staff
- Developed working relations with government agencies and user groups
- Developed area maps
- Received letters of support from agencies, recreation user groups, tourism, economic development and business interests

CURRENT TRAIL CONSTRAINTS

- Watershed protection: Cripple Creek and Victor
- Wildlife habitat protection: CPW and USFS
- Private property owner interests
- Teller County shooting range location
- Trail topography and sustainability constraint

CONSTRAINTS MAP



BEAR CREEK WATERSHED



NEXT STEPS

- Continue stakeholder and partner dialogue
- Further define trail location constraints
- Secure additional support
- Identify possible consultants for leading the planning process
- Research organizational models to ensure trail management and sustainability

END OF THE TRAIL

